

\$2.00 June 2021

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# Tidings

Impacting the World for Christ



*Take Time*  
**6** to be Attentive

Thinking **18**  
outside the box

The **Urgency**  
**12** of  
Pastoral Care



# Tidings

Since 1893, *Tidings* has been published by the United Baptist Woman's Missionary Union of the Atlantic Provinces for the glory of God and to encourage each other to do good works.

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Cover photo by Victoria Heath (Unsplash)



## Editor's Niche

How many countries in the world can you name? (It's one thing to name them; try spelling them correctly!) When I look at the list—the general tally is 195 countries—I confess that there are places I don't recognize and couldn't locate without Google's help. There are also names I have only an impression of ... think sandy beaches or war-ravaged cities ... with no understanding of the lives of people there. It was once standard practise in elementary school to memorize the names of countries, provinces, states, and capital cities. But since my bookbag days, my country's internal units have changed: could I now name all of Canada's sections and their capitals? Likewise, the world scene changes, and despite what seems to be a constant influx of data, it's easy for knowledge to slip out of date.

Even a list containing a few facts about the globe's countries can be fascinating. India is geographically not quite a third the size of China, yet has almost as many people: China has 1.439 billion, and India has 1.380 billion. At 100 acres and about 1,000 people, the independent city state of Vatican City is the world's smallest country and has observer status at the United Nations.

In these months when even local travel might be restricted, travel broadly through *Tidings*. How many countries are mentioned in this issue? Pray over them, fly to one with Ace, visit Kenya, El Salvador, and Rwanda with scholarship recipients, cross the border with Marsha Boyd-Mitchell ... and don't put your passport away yet. *Bon voyage!*

Cindy MacDonald



Impacting the World for Christ

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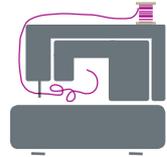
# ABW Newsworthy Notes ...



## ABW Let's Talk! with Rev. Cheryl Ann Beals

Join Atlantic Baptist Women Wednesday, June 16, 7–8 p.m. via Zoom for a conversation about our lives with God. Bring your reflections and stories. Cheryl Ann Beals will share with us and will facilitate our time together.

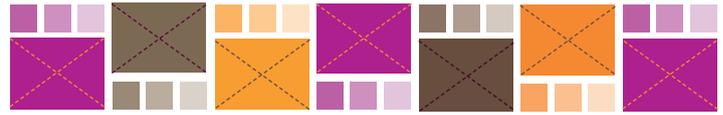
Please register by June 11 with the ABW Executive Director: [atlanticbaptistwomen@gmail.com](mailto:atlanticbaptistwomen@gmail.com)



## Quilts for Graduates

Each year, Atlantic Baptist Women presents quilts to the female graduates of Acadia Divinity College, Wolfville, Nova Scotia, to recognize their achievement and demonstrate support.

If you or your WMS/ABW group would like to donate a hand- or machine-quilted bed-sized quilt, please contact the ABW Executive Director for more information: [atlanticbaptistwomen@gmail.com](mailto:atlanticbaptistwomen@gmail.com)



## TOGETHER

22<sup>nd</sup> BAPTIST WORLD CONGRESS  
Online Worldwide | July 7-10, 2021

Find out more and register today!  
[www.bwa2021.org](http://www.bwa2021.org)

*The Baptist Women of North America are 2020–2025 prayer partners with the Baptist Women's Union of Latin America*

*"... be alert and always keep on praying for all the LORD's people" (Eph. 6:18b, NIV).*

Continuing to remember offerings to Atlantic Baptist Women during COVID-19 restrictions blesses the ministries and goals we support together. Please continue to give to ABW to help meet ongoing commitments.



Offerings from your WMS or ABW group can be forwarded to your ABW Provincial Treasurer. You can also send offerings directly to the ABW Treasurer or donate online at [www.atlanticbaptistwomen.ca](http://www.atlanticbaptistwomen.ca).

All cheques sent to the ABW Treasurer should be made payable to Atlantic Baptist Women.

ABW Treasurer

For questions or e-transfer: [abwtreasurer@hotmail.com](mailto:abwtreasurer@hotmail.com).

## We Shall Remember Them

*Each month, names of those who have been part of Woman's Missionary Societies or Atlantic Baptist Women's groups who have died and gone to be with the Lord are included in "We Shall Remember Them."*

*Names are submitted by groups and individuals, in fellowship and respect, and to express thanks for their partnership in service to the Lord.*

### To Place a Name in We Shall Remember Them

Send the person's name, address, date of death, and age to the editor of *Tidings*. Print as well as write the information. Include your phone number.

### To Place a Name in the ABW Memorial Book

Send information to your ABW Provincial Treasurer with a memorial gift of \$5 or more. Cheques payable to Atlantic Baptist Women.



## Atlantic Baptist Women 2021 Home Mission Project "Camp On!"

Atlantic Baptist Women  
2021 Children's Mission Action Project  
"Orphans and Vulnerable Children"



[www.atlanticbaptistwomen.ca](http://www.atlanticbaptistwomen.ca) "What We Do" or see the January 2021 *Tidings*

Facebook: Atlantic Baptist Women



# Upholding One Another and Extending

The small numbers preceding prayer requests serve as a daily guide for prayer.  
Prayer requests for Saturday and Sunday are combined.

## LATIN AMERICA



**Bruno and Kathleen Soucy**

<sup>1</sup>Bruno and Kathleen Soucy, Canadian Baptist Ministries' team leaders for Latin America, ask for prayer for Cubans facing hardships due to monetary reform in addition to COVID restrictions. Praise God that in-person church services have opened in some of the five Latin American and Caribbean countries where CBM is present.

<sup>2</sup>Lift up CBM's partner church leaders, praying that they will have energy and wisdom to carry out needed programs during the ongoing pandemic, as well as CBM Team Leaders for Latin America Bruno and Kathleen Soucy, asking that they totally trust the Lord as they encourage others.

<sup>3</sup>Pray that issues of injustice and poverty, increasing rapidly, will be addressed and that health care and vaccines, which are unaffordable to most, will be made available where the need is greatest. Pray that the Lord will help us heed the words of Matthew 25:34–40 and be better neighbours.

<sup>4</sup>Join the Unión Femenil Bautista de América Latina as they commit to praying for millennials, centennials, and young mothers. Along with our Latin American sisters, pray for Baptist young women coming into leadership, families in conflict, new projects necessitated by these times, and the millions affected by COVID-19.



# CBM

<sup>5/6</sup>Bill and Janice Dyck, CBM global field staff to Bolivia, covet prayer for the needy children of the Emmanuel Foundation, Casa de la Amistad, and Jireh in Cochabamba, as well as for pastors with no income. Pray that the Dycks will soon be able to return to

Bolivia to offer hands-on support. Give thanks that they have had time with their daughter in Canada as she struggles with long-haul symptoms of COVID.

## EUROPE

<sup>7</sup>Continue to pray for the good health and safety of CBM's Chinese Ministries teams and their families. Remember their families as they undergo changes: a son prepares for university; the marriage of one of the staff; and, one couple has been blessed by the birth of their second child.

## CANADA and ASIA

<sup>8</sup>Thank God for Conrad and Fiona Kwok's safe return to Canada where they will continue to serve CBM as

the Chinese Ministries team leaders. Pray for a smooth transition "home," safety from COVID, and opportunities to promote their ministry virtually or in person.

<sup>9</sup>Pray God's blessing and empowerment on Joseph Lee, newly appointed CBM national field staff, as he ministers with his wife Lilian Yang in Asia's Golden Triangle region, maintaining weekly contact with pastors and students on Zoom. Pray that Thailand Bethel Theological Institute's students, whose studies have been interrupted due to border closures and little or no Internet access, will not feel defeated and be able to resume studies next term.



**Joseph Lee and Lilian Yang**

<sup>10</sup>Uphold devastated Myanmar people who face extreme violence and injustice under the military regime; hundreds of lives and homes have been lost. Pray that Canadians will donate generously to CBM's Myanmar Relief Fund and that God's peace will prevail.

<sup>11</sup>Ask God to keep Michael and Melanie Waddell, CBM global field staff in the Philippines, "in perfect peace"; they are waiting out the pandemic with their family in New Brunswick, and seeking God's guidance for future decisions regarding their ministry and oldest daughter's summer employment and university attendance.

<sup>12/13</sup>Lift up CBM's partner, Kabuganaan Philippines Ministries in Capiz, and leaders Rev. Job and Phoebe Santiago as they serve the poor and vulnerable in that province. As Japan marks the tenth anniversary of the Fukushima disaster, ask God's comfort and peace on those still suffering from the effects of radiation.

## AFRICA and the MIDDLE EAST

<sup>14</sup>Intercede for Gato Munyamasoko, CBM's peace and reconciliation specialist in the Democratic Republic of the Congo, for the political situation in the DRC to stabilize and for increased attendance at his training sessions. Pray, too, for good health for Gato, his wife, their children, and senior family members.

<sup>15</sup>Lift up CBM's partners in Kenya, including the theological college of the Africa Christian Church and Schools and its leader, Beth Kamathi. Pray they seek God's wisdom to navigate challenges.

<sup>16</sup>Praise God with Elie and Mireille Haddad, CBM team leaders in the Middle East and North Africa, for the

# God's Kingdom . . . through Prayer

“Blessed is the man who trusts in the LORD, whose trust is the LORD” (Jeremiah 17:7, ESV).

witness of the church in Lebanon as it proclaims love and deliverance in word and deed. Ask God to comfort us when we are disturbed and disturb us when we are comfortable.

## GLOBAL

<sup>17</sup>Pray that God will fill Elie Haddad with his Holy Spirit as Elie speaks at the Baptist World Congress in July and that the Lord will prepare the hearts of all participants and registrants. May every aspect of the online Global Conference of Baptist Women on July 7 honour God.



**Elie Haddad**

<sup>18</sup>Moreen Sharp is the interim executive director for Baptist World Alliance Women. She covets our prayers that young women from around the world would register in a new leadership development program being launched by BWAW.

<sup>19/20</sup>Thank God for new Horizons youth leadership training directors Kofi Kpomgbe in Africa and Baptist John Prakash in Telangana, India. Thank him also for mentors-in-training for leaders and for Telugu translators of the Horizons programs in India. This Father's Day, ask God to draw fathers to himself, equipping them to be godly role models to their children.

## CANADA

<sup>21</sup>Today, on National Indigenous People's Day, pray that our nation will recognize and celebrate the unique heritage, diverse cultures, and outstanding contributions the First Nations, Inuit, and Métis people have made to this country. Plead with God for an end to racism.

<sup>22</sup>Pray that Louise Hannem, appointed CBM team lead of global discipleship effective April 1, 2021, will totally trust God as she works alongside global and Canadian partners, engaging the church and the next generation in God's mission.



**Louise Hannem**

## ATLANTIC CANADA

<sup>23</sup>Rejoice in what the Lord will do this summer in our churches and communities, and in the lives of our Canadian Baptists of Atlantic Canada youth as they experience Undercurrent from July 19–23.

<sup>24</sup>Take Atlantic Baptist Women's 2021 Home Mission Project, “Camp On!” and the Vacation Bible Schools which ABW sponsors to the Lord in prayer. Ask that his will be done regarding COVID-19 restrictions and protocols, ensuring the safety of all involved.

<sup>25</sup>Give thanks for a record-high enrolment of over 900 students at Crandall University in Moncton, New Brunswick, this year, and for a significant increase in scholarship funds and annual operating donations. Rejoice with President Bruce Fawcett that there were no COVID-19 cases on campus for the 2020–2021 term.

<sup>26/27</sup>Praise God for Rev. Gail Whalen-Dunn's excellent leadership during her term as ABW president and for the faithful service of any outgoing executive members. Ask his guidance on Rev. Sylvia Hagerman, who became president June 1, and for new executive members. Pray God's blessing on the Canadian Baptists of Atlantic Canada's annual Oasis event, to be held virtually August 13–14, 2021.



<sup>28</sup>The Island Pregnancy Centre in Charlottetown, Prince Edward Island, requests prayer for a new full-time program director: ask the Lord to provide someone who will be passionate about sharing Christ's love with clients.

Pray also for a summer student for each of the centre's Charlottetown and Summerside locations.

<sup>29</sup>Be thankful for answered prayer: four new volunteers recently trained at a facility in Atlantic Canada that ministers to victims of sexual exploitation, and a student grant has been received. Continue to pray for another houseparent, as well as for evening and weekend respite coverage for the director.



<sup>30</sup>Praise God: the Open Door Centre for Healthy Life Choices, Halifax, Nova Scotia, receives up to seven first-time clients a day in their new facility and has trained a new group of volunteers. The centre is launching a presentation for public schools regarding the Internet and pornography to empower teens and parents with preventative information. Pray that students will be acutely aware of the dangers of pornography, and that the Open Door staff will have strength for each day.

## Elaine Huntington

Sources: CBM Prayerline, CBM Calling (Facebook), Baptist World Alliance “Pray Around the World,” CBM staff blogs and newsletters, and private emails.

# Paying Attention to Our Lives

by Cheryl Ann Beals

In 1981 or '82, God sent me a message through his servant, Dr. Willard Clayton. He was my former high school vice principal and a respected pastor of two congregations in the African United Baptist Association of Nova Scotia. Dr. Clayton always encouraged me as a student. One day he gave me a copy of his book, *Pearls from Patmos*, which was a summary of his doctoral research. Inside the cover he wrote, "Cheryl Ann, Phil. 1:6," and he signed his name.

"And I am certain that God, who began the good work within you, will continue his work until it is finally finished on the day when Christ Jesus returns" (NLT). That verse caught my attention. It perplexed me, thrilled me, and troubled me. I

now know that it was spiritual seed that God was planting in me.

It said to me that Dr. Clayton, whom I deeply respected, believed that God had started something in my life and that God was trustworthy to continue what he had started. This all took place a few years before I decided to make a formal commitment as a Christian; I wasn't yet baptized. So, the verse troubled me.

When I was a young child I had experienced an encounter with God, and I knew God was with me. I talked to him all the time, however, I didn't

think he paid much attention to me. But this verse in Philippians brought new spiritual awareness: God was not only with me, but was doing something in me. It made me begin to pay attention to God's presence in my life, and to question what he had started in me and what he wanted to do in my life. My life started to slowly change, and I felt myself being drawn closer to God. On June 5, 1985, I surrendered. Since then, I've continued to pay attention to what God is doing in my life.

**"AND I AM CERTAIN THAT GOD, WHO BEGAN THE GOOD WORK WITHIN YOU, WILL CONTINUE HIS WORK UNTIL IT IS FINALLY FINISHED ON THE DAY WHEN CHRIST JESUS RETURNS"**  
Philippians 1:6, NLT

I recently was on sabbatical, and it was a time of being attentive to God. I intentionally, consistently made time for listening and being still. I spent time reflecting on events and experiences, looking for the promptings of

the Holy Spirit to give me insight and wisdom. When I started to write this reflection, God reminded me of Philippians 1:6 and also of the message he gave me through Dr. Clayton. Once again, God had reminded me ... and is reminding me still ... that he has begun a good work in my life that only he can bring to fruition. It is all dependent on the leading and work of the Holy Spirit in me and through me.

I am convicted, once again, that the spiritual life is about paying attention to what God is doing and what he wants to do in our lives and through

our lives. And what does paying attention and believing look like? It is believing he is God. Believing he is present not only with us, but in us. Believing that where he is, there is spiritual activity. Believing that belief is not just intellectual assent, but it is a lived expression through faith.

Knowing that God has begun a good work in us, and that he is trustworthy to continue what he has begun, is foundational. Paul prays in Philippians 1: "My prayers for you are full of praise to God as I give him thanks for you with great joy! *I'm so grateful for our union* and our enduring partnership that began the first time I presented to you the gospel. *I pray with great faith for you*, because I'm fully convinced that the One who began this gracious work in you will faithfully continue the process of maturing you until the unveiling of our Lord Jesus Christ!" (vv. 3-6, TPT).

The Passion Translation's notes on verse 6 say that Paul is referring to God's "... 'good [worthwhile] work.' Paul uses language here that sounds similar to [Genesis 1:2]. When God created the heavens and the earth, he declared it to be 'good.' And now with the new creation life within us, God again sees our growth in grace as something good." Paul is also giving us reassurance that God "will see to it that you remain faithful" (TPT notes).

### Reflection:

- How are you paying attention to God's work in you?
- Ask God what he has begun in you?
- What does he want to do through you?
- What messengers and messages are God sending you?

*Dr. Cheryl Ann Beals is the director of clergy formation and wellness for the Canadian Baptists of Atlantic Canada.*

# Celebration!



The beach is a  
"happy place"  
for Sylvia Hagerman

**Hi, I'm back!** Many of you already know me: for 12 years I wrote the "Spiritual Life" articles on the page beside this one.

As of June 1, I am now the president of our wonderful organization. At present, I am feeling very overwhelmed! The past two years as vice president have been a very low-key time, especially because of COVID. Now, however, I will have to "adult" a lot more. I am determined to keep my sense of humour and my sense of adventure and my dreaming. That is my one BIG goal. As well, the Atlantic Baptist Women executive director, executive, officers, and I are going to do our best to have an in-person interMISSION event in 2022. I will say no promises, sadly, since we know what

has happened in the past two years. We do have a great big God, and we will wait to see what he has in store for us.

"Celebration!" is the title of this article. I have to admit that there are times right now when I just do not feel like celebrating. I believe the experts call it "COVID fatigue." We are into our second year of COVID-19, and our lives have been turned upside down. We have become accustomed to social distancing, washing our hands, using hand sanitizer, wearing masks, living in a bubble with only a few direct contacts, and, last but certainly not least, our church lives have changed. How I miss the pre- and post-church coffee times, and what I wouldn't give for a potluck

dinner. Amazingly though, God is working harder than ever. Or should I rephrase that—Christians are working harder than ever to make sure that people are still getting the message that God cares for them and that they are special to him.

My hubby and I spend a great deal of time together. There are days when he tells me that I am grumpy and snappy. I have to admit that when we have many

grey days in a row and do not have the freedom to meet with friends like we once did, I think we all get grumpy. Instead, we need to find ways to celebrate!

In *The Spirit of the Disciplines*, Dallas Willard said, "Faith in its celebration sometimes becomes a delirious joy coursing through our bodily being, when we really begin to see how great and lovely God is and how good he has been to us." He also said, "Celebration heartily done makes our deprivations and sorrow seem small and we find in it great strength to do the will of God because his goodness becomes real to us." Did I hear an "Amen!" as you read that?

Here are some ways to practise spiritual celebration:

1. Sing and dance, worshipping God and finding joy in the everyday.
2. Do something special to celebrate a holiday, birthday, or special event (respecting the COVID guidelines).
3. Do something you enjoy that makes you smile and laugh and have fun. Allow yourself to enjoy it, thanking God for the gift of joy and laughter.
4. Spend time with someone who brings you joy.

In his book *Celebration of Discipline*, Richard Foster states, "Without joyous celebration to infuse the other Disciplines, we will sooner or later abandon them. Joy produces energy. Joy makes us strong."

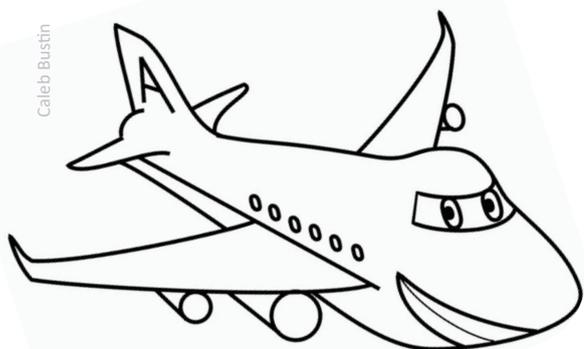
In July, I am taking part in the Baptist World Alliance meetings. Of course, these will be virtual meetings, but I am sure that, even then, they will be a celebration of what God is doing in our Baptist world. We might even dance in our seats as we celebrate.

During these summer months, grab hold of the discipline of celebration and make the most of your COVID days. *Celebrate!*

Blessings,

*Sylvia*

Caleb Bustin



# Adventure Time with Ace the Airplane

by Bronwyn Bustin

## Take-Off

Hey everyone! It's great to see you again! My name is Ace the Airplane, and I am so excited that you're coming along on an adventure with me! Every month we travel somewhere and get to visit some pretty amazing people all around the world. Are your seatbelts buckled? Let's go!

## The Trip

"Are we there yet?" Boys and girls, is that something you've ever said when you were driving with your parents or heading on a vacation in the summer or on March break?

Sometimes we get impatient and want things to happen quickly! Or, we're not happy when things don't go our way. We want things to go according to our plan, but that doesn't usually happen! Have you seen this happen in your own life this past year? I know I have, and there are many here in Canada and around the world who can say the same thing. There are even some of the Canadian Baptist Ministries staff we've visited this past year who have had to return to Canada and aren't able to live in the countries they are serving right now. Let's fly around Canada and check in with a couple of them.



Bill and Janice Dyck

Bill and Janice Dyck, who usually live in Bolivia, have been in Western Canada and haven't been able to return to Bolivia yet because of COVID-19. Let's hear what Bill has to say: "In motion, but never quite there seems to describe many parts of our lives these days. We'd like to be able to make firm plans and see people in person, but we can't do

that yet. We'd like to get back to Bolivia, but we're not

quite there yet." It can be really hard to be stuck in limbo and wondering, "Are we there yet?!" But even in these challenging times, we can see God at work. The Dycks share, "Because pastors in Bolivia haven't been able to gather in person due to COVID-19, we came up with an idea to create training events that will happen virtually that will help disciple pastors who are leading churches. While we've been in Canada, we've been able to record updates for churches who support us and our ministry in Bolivia. We also see God at work in this timing because we've been able to be close to family and especially our daughter who has dealt with COVID-19 and its effects on her health."

Even though the Dycks are in Canada right now, God is still at work! Now, let's head east again and stop by to see the Waddell family.

Do you remember learning about the childcare centres in Capiz province in the Philippines last month? The Waddells thought they would be going back to their home in the Philippines after several months in Canada, but their plans were interrupted by COVID-19 and travel restrictions. Michael shares,

"Despite this difficult reality, that we are unable to be in the Philippines right now, we remain committed to the work that God has given us with our partners in the Philippines. Although our work looks very different from what it would if



we were in Roxas City, we give thanks to the Lord for technology and reliable Internet connections that are enabling us to connect with and support our partners throughout these many months."

Even when things don't go how we expect them or want them to go, God is still at work. He works in us, changing our hearts and helping us to grow closer to him. He also works through us, and we can share his love, joy, and peace with others, no matter where we are!

Let's buckle up our seatbelts and take a look at a couple of Bible verses as we fly back home.

## Return Flight

Boys and girls, one verse that has always been important to me is **Proverbs 16:9**, which says, "In their hearts human beings plan their lives. But the LORD decides where their steps will take them" (NIRV). This verse reminds me that even though I may think I have a plan or know what is going to



happen, God is the one who is really in control. And even when things don't work out the way I want them to, I can still trust in him.

Melanie Waddell shared a few verses with me that she and her family have been finding comfort and peace in during these uncertain times. *Isaiah 26:3-4* says, "You will keep in perfect peace all who trust in you, all whose thoughts are fixed on you! Trust in the LORD always, for the LORD GOD is the eternal Rock" (NLT).

- According to this verse, what can we do to stay in "perfect peace"?
- Do you find it easy or difficult to keep your thoughts fixed on God, even in challenging times?
- What can you do to help yourself focus on God and not on your problems?
- What is something in your life right now that you need to trust God about?

### Back on the Ground: Summer Passport

*Supplies: paper or construction paper, scissors, hole punch, ribbon or string, markers or crayons*

I had so much fun travelling with you today—and we didn't even leave Canada! Remember, it doesn't matter where you are or what you are doing; God can work in you and through you to help other people. As you head into the summer, let's think creatively about ways you can help others and share God's love, wherever you might be. You can start thinking of ideas while you make your summer passport.

Take two pieces of paper and cut them in half. Stack them on top of each other and then fold them in half, to create a little booklet. Punch two or three holes along the folded edge. Next, weave a piece of ribbon through the holes and tie it to hold your pages together. This is your passport! You can write your name on the front and decorate it however you wish!

Even though your summer might look different than in the past, you can keep track of the places you "travel" to and how you share God's love in those places. Maybe one week you can travel to the park and play with a friend who is lonely. Or maybe you can travel to the grocery store with your parents and help them pick out food you can donate to a local food bank. Or maybe you travel all the way to your telephone where you can call your grandparents or someone else you haven't seen in



Although they couldn't be together in person, Canadian Baptist Ministries staff stayed in touch by using their computers.

a while and brighten their day by talking with them!

Remember, we don't have to travel far to be able to share God's love with others! Every time you do one of these things, you can write or draw about it in your passport, and by the end of the summer, you'll be able to see the collection of wonderful ways you spread God's love and joy with your families and friends!

### Share Your Adventure with Others!

I have two more things I want to tell you before we say goodbye.

1. You can share your adventures this summer by showing your friends your summer passport and encouraging them to make their own. You could work together to think of different ways you can help others and share God's love with them!



2. Whenever you write or draw in your passport, remember to pray for the Dycks, Waddells, and other mission staff who aren't yet able to return to their homes in the countries they serve. Pray that they would have patience and be able to still connect with their partners and co-workers. Pray as well for the people in these countries, that they would stay healthy and find ways to continue to minister to those in their communities during challenging times.

*Well, friends, thanks for joining me on our journey today! I can't wait to see you again in September and head off on another adventure. See you later!*



Sources: <https://www.cbmin.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/03/Dyck-CBM-Update-Mar2021.pdf>; <https://mailchi.mp/7670c0df8737/waddell-family-ministry-update-winter-2021>; <http://www.waddells.ca/hindsight-one-year-later/>

## Ye Who Are Weary, Come Home

by Marsha Boyd-Mitchell

**“Start children off on the way they should go, and even when they are old they will not turn from it.”**

*Proverbs 22:6, NIV*

When I was 15, my parents took my grandmother on a trip from New Brunswick to Lancaster, Pennsylvania. My grandmother's baby sister had been diagnosed with cancer, and Gram really wanted to visit and check on her. It was two days of driving, and we arrived after supper on the second day. We were greeted at the door and my great-uncle showed us to the living room to visit. My grandmother stayed at the house, sleeping in the guest bedroom, and my parents and I stayed at a local hotel.

This visit was the first time that I remember meeting this lady. I had not heard too many good things about her as a person. She had led a rough life, running away from home and leaving behind a nice family to grieve her actions. My grandmother was always heartsick for her youngest sister's choices. During that first evening, this new-to-me great-aunt wanted to talk about her illness and about a troubling, reoccurring dream. In her dream, she would see her childhood home and her late mother standing in the driveway, beckoning her toward the house. In the dream, her mother was dressed all in white. My great-aunt always woke up before she ever made it home. I still remember her desperation in conveying the events.

My 15-year-old self said, “Maybe your childhood home represents heaven.” Everyone in the room stopped talking and listened intently to a conversation that spanned the generations. I am sure I was not all that eloquent, but I remember God giving me the courage to just speak the gospel the way I had heard it

explained so many times. *God is not willing that any should perish, and the Father sent the Son to be the Saviour of the world.* Could it be that God in his mercy was leading her home? Thirty years have since passed, and I'll never know exactly what my great-aunt's dreams were all about. I wonder now about the prayers of my great-grandmother for a prodigal daughter. Were her prayers guiding my great-aunt home in those dreams?

How far-reaching are our prayers? Even in the most impossible situations—rebellion, stubbornness, and unbelief—the prayers for our souls follow us. If this is true, how important are the prayers you and I pray in earnest for the youth in our sphere of influence? How valuable are times spent teaching them the Word of God?

While I was thinking this over this week, one of my neighbours, a senior lady with a strong Christian faith, testified about one of her brothers going to church over the Easter weekend. He hadn't been to church for a long, long time. She said, “Marsha, all those prayers from our

mother and father are following our family now. When you train a child up to know the truth, they come back to it, even though sometimes it is in old age.” I smiled, thinking how good and how gracious is our God.

I also thought about my great-aunt who, before cancer took her, accepted that Jesus is the Way, the Truth, and the Life, and no one comes to the Father except through him (see John 14:6). The Lord extended his hand across the generations to lead another lost soul home. “And let us not be weary in well doing: for in due season we shall reap, if we faint not” (Galatians 6:9, KJV). When praying for your kids, grandkids, great-grandkids, and those you hold dear, remember the words of Hudson Taylor, founder of the China Inland Mission: “It is possible to move men, through God, by prayer alone.”

*Marsha Boyd-Mitchell is the executive director of Christian Action Federation of NB Inc. and principal of Sussex Christian School, New Brunswick.*



Unsplash - Joshua Reddekopp



come in to look. Once people in the community became aware of what we were doing, some would ask for specific items. There were times when I would search our supply and find the exact thing they were requesting. One woman in the community had a baby and asked if she might be able to get some items for the

child. Although we don't generally receive much in the way of baby clothes, I said I would certainly look. I went to the church and on the steps was a box of baby clothes along with a bassinet. The woman was thrilled to receive the bassinet also. It is wonderful how God works in these situations.

Fast-forward to the present day: we have rooms on the ground level of our building where we can open the doors to the public to come in and receive free clothes. The clothing is displayed on racks that had been discarded by stores that were closing. A faithful group of ladies takes turns sorting clothes and arranging for people to come in for assistance. Our excess is given to places like Souls Harbour Rescue Mission in Halifax or the local dance club for a fundraiser.

Along this journey, we have made many friends. One of the organizations that we have come alongside is Bonny Lea Farm which provides residential, vocational, and therapeutic services for adults with intellectual difficulties. They have a program called

South Shore Work Activity Program (S.W.A.P.) which helps different groups with skills improvement and job seeking. Paulette, one of our clothing helpers, is involved with S.W.A.P., and started arranging for their participants to shop for clothes with us. As a way of giving back, they built beautiful clothing racks for displaying the clothing in a very neat and orderly fashion.

Syrian refugees moved into our community. When they arrived, the local live theatre group helped them look for fabric and/or wardrobe items, and we were able to provide items. People who have lost belongings in house fires have been helped through our church's initiative. We have also assisted foster parents who have found themselves in need upon short notice. We try to emphasize that all are welcome: we want anyone and everyone to feel they can benefit from the generosity of others.

Our broader community has really been a big part of our church being able to help others. The main purpose of doing what we do is to assist people in need, but also to help keep useful items from ending up in the landfill. Some of the relationships we have built by providing this service have brought new people to our church services and/or programs.

With COVID-19, we have had to adjust, and we now do appointments. We hope to soon open the first Tuesday of each month.

Over the years, our church, AEnon United Baptist, in Chester Basin, Nova Scotia, has collected clothing donations. At the outset, non-profit organizations would come and pick up the clothes for their fundraising efforts. After these non-profits stopped this kind of arrangement, the church found itself with a large amount of clothing and nowhere for the items to go.

In February 2007, as part of our small group Bible studies, called *40 Days of Community*, one of the groups decided it was time to do something about all the useful items we had been storing at the church, and a new endeavour took root. They decided to sort the bags and bags of donated items. When this task was completed, the doors were opened for one or two weekends and a clothing giveaway was held. It took many people to make this happen. We were very thankful to be able to do this after so many people had generously donated so much to us.

I previously worked in retail and love organizing, and want things to look nice. With so many clothes to be displayed, a steamer helps give the items a fresh look and makes them much more appealing for the people who come and make choices. Clothing is a very personal thing; therefore, some people just want to



Several of the team who serve the Clothing Depot.



# The *Urgency* of PASTORAL CARE

by Pastor Scott Ryder

*I am going to suggest* that pastoral care, in many ways, is vital to the long-term viability of the

local church. As well, within the context of long-term care, pastoral care makes all the difference in the world to a resident living apart from family and friends.



*Pastor Scott Ryder is the pastor of West Lane Baptist Church and director of pastoral care at the Kenneth E. Spencer Memorial Home in Moncton, New Brunswick.*

Pastoral care is not a complex matter, but it is a time-consuming activity, and therein lies the real issue

surrounding pastoral care in 2021. Pastoral care needs to be a regularly scheduled part of pastoral activity, much like sermon preparation, rather

than something that occurs if there is available time for it. Pastoral care is for all people, not certain people, and proper pastoral care and sensitive pastoral care often have a positive impact on an individual's eternal destination.

In Acts 20:28 it says, "Pay careful attention to yourselves and to all the flock, in which the Holy Spirit has made you overseers, to care for the church of God, which he obtained with his own blood" (ESV). And in these words we find the motivation for pastoral care: we as pastors have been made overseers of the Church of God to care for all the flock.

Pastoral care isn't for the faint of heart. More often than not, it takes place outside of the church building in people's homes and sometimes coffee shops; and it usually involves only a couple of people, with the topics of discussion being as shocking as they can be routine. But in every

situation, someone is wanting to talk about a real-life issue, and, in many instances, they are merely looking for someone to listen to them.

In my experience, pastoral care can be divided into two focuses, albeit with one purpose. There is the pastoral care that happens in the context of a congregational setting with people who are generally in the community and attending church services on a fairly regular basis. Then, there is the pastoral care that happens in the context of individuals living in long-term care facilities. In each case, the purpose and goal of pastoral care is the same—to bring comfort, encouragement, and insight into someone's life who is experiencing a difficult time. But more specifically, within the long-term care facility the aim of pastoral care is generally to bring comfort and human presence into a life that is needy for both.

As a pastor, I spend more time in the homes and hospital rooms of my people than I do in my office behind my desk. Sometimes an individual will want to meet with me at the church, but often a visit in a personal space proves more comfortable and effective. And, yes, I often spend more time listening than I do talking, and the individual is able to resolve their issue simply because I cared enough to listen.

As the head of pastoral care at the Kenneth E. Spencer Memorial Home, if I am not speaking in the morning chapel service, then I am either in the rooms of residents or the common areas, making myself available to talk to and pray with and read Scripture with.

Of course, each pastoral call, regardless of the setting, is unique and there is always the unknown of what will surface. In church calls, the element of surprise is much greater as people are still actively living their lives in the community; and we all

know that life today comes with way too much baggage for people to handle on their own. But in long-term care settings, pastoral care is an undertaking that requires much patience, lots of understanding, and is full of rewards from the smiles on people's faces.

At the Spencer Home, the residents call me by my first name, and those who can't simply call me minister or priest or Father, and I answer to them all! I never miss an opportunity to visit with a resident, and when one asks for me, there is always time for that visit. Pastoral

care in the long-term care facility often leads to a life-changing experience, often for myself, and usually for the resident.

Perhaps the greatest challenge of pastoral care in the long-term care facility is to have the knowledge needed to meet each resident on their own denominational level. But for the people who live in a long-term care population, the reality is that as one enters into the closing years of one's life, the name over the church door becomes less important as the realization of there being only one God takes hold in a person's life.

In my experience, I have come to realize that the generation of people I serve at Spencer all know about God, and my responsibility is to now introduce them to a personal relationship with God. I have had the privilege of conducting funerals of residents because of our relationship over the years. But most impactful on me was the day I baptized a resident in a tub room because our relationship over a couple of years led that person to faith in Christ. That baptism became a pastoral care opportunity for me with the nurses and staff who were present and witnessed a changed life at the baptism.

Pastoral care is crucial and necessary in an age when technology seems to be taking over the way we do church. Personal touch with people will always be needed, and people who have been made to feel needed and heard and cared for will naturally gravitate towards the church that provides that care.

Today, the seriousness and uncertainty that the global pandemic has created also continues to reveal a growing number of people who are lonely and starving for human presence in their lives. In recent months during this pandemic, pastoral care is proving difficult for many. Thankfully I have been able to be at the Spencer Home almost daily.

I believe that the Church has before it a tremendous opportunity for pastoral care to people who need to know that someone is thinking about them and wanting to care for them.

Pastoral care is the highlight of my pastoral ministry because it is in the care of people that I see the hand of God at work most clearly.

Unsplash Reid Naaykens





**Brenda Halk** is Canadian Baptist Ministries' senior associate for strategic projects. She works with CBM's International Partnerships team and the organization's global church partners in the area of gender-based programs. Her work in gender-based ministry involves equipping women to become effective agents of change at home, in the church, and within the wider community. Brenda also leads CBM's Faith + Work initiatives both in Canada and globally.



**CBM**

## CANADIAN BAPTIST WOMEN INTERNATIONAL SCHOLARSHIPS

by Brenda Halk

Let me introduce you ... to Beth, Gladys, and Laetitia.

Canadian Baptist Women (CBW) provides international scholarships for Christian women in leadership studying at a post-graduate level. The recipients are often (but not always) women from the partnership areas in which Canadian Baptist Ministries works. The generosity and faithfulness of Atlantic Baptist Women and women across Canada make these scholarships possible.

Let me introduce you to the three women who are currently receiving scholarships. I know you will be impressed, encouraged, and in awe of the energy required by the great work they are accomplishing. Their hard work, flexibility in the face of a pandemic, and faithfulness to God's leading in their lives are impressive and heartwarming. Their humble, servant leadership is evident and they are grateful for the partnership of Canadian Baptist Women on their journeys.

### BETH KAMATHI, KENYA

Beth began her full-time studies in the Doctor of Ministry degree program at Acadia University, Wolfville, Nova Scotia, in September 2020, and has completed two semesters. She is studying online because the pandemic has prevented travel to Canada. Beth is the principal of the African Christian Church and Schools Bible School in Thika, Kenya. As the school is currently closed due to the pandemic, she is ministering at the Kenol Church, 15 kilometres from Thika. Pray for her safety as she travels outside of the lockdown zone.

Listen to the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic in Beth's own words: "I have been well and I thank the almighty God for His protection and care even amid the



pandemic. We are now in the third phase that has hit us hard in our region which has experienced high numbers of infections, and physical worship and learning were indefinitely closed. My church is outside the locked zone and it has been hard for me to meet with them but I have been given a pass that enables me to travel on Sundays only. It was unfortunate that my predecessor in the college, Rev. Daniel Muindi, succumbed to the virus last month. We have also lost members of our church and this is devastating."

Beth is enriched in both her leadership and ministry skills through her studies and interactions with professors and fellow students. The challenge for Beth is to balance

ministerial work, her studies, and self-care time. She is grateful for your prayers and support as she reflects on and deepens her spiritual journey. Beth says, “For me it has been like a car taken back to the garage for service. The DMin program is academic rigorously and ministry-focused and this blend thus far has worked well for me.”

## GLADYS HAYDEE ORTIZ, EL SALVADOR



Gladys is the president of the Association of Baptists in El Salvador, and pastor of a local church. Her studies were interrupted by the war in El Salvador and she is now completing a master’s degree in theology at the Seminario Teológico Centroamericano, with an emphasis on Christian education. The pandemic has delayed Gladys’s studies again, and she will resume her studies in August. Gladys’s church has been meeting in person since September and she continues to meet with leaders.

## LAETITIA DUSABIMANA, RWANDA

Laetitia is completing a Master of Arts in Gender and Development from the University of Rwanda. Laetitia is the director of the Women and Family Department within the Association of Baptist Churches in Rwanda. In her own words, “I have a thirst for continuing to serve my community and my country in building up the development of women and family in a sustainable way.”

Laetitia is very grateful for the opportunity the scholarship has provided, as this has been her prayer for a long time as she has worked in the Women’s Department. Since her studies began in November, she has completed

four modules. Laetitia is inspired by what she is learning and is seeing new ways of helping women who are oppressed and marginalized.

Laetitia and her husband Gatero have three young children, all in school (nursery, Grade 1, and Grade 3). She attends classes four nights a week from 6–9 p.m. This, along with her work responsibilities which includes field visits, keeps Laetitia very busy! Study, family, work, COVID delays and challenges—it all means she needs to be very organized and strategic. Pray for encouragement and success in her studies. Remember, as well, her family, and their household as they make an upcoming move to a new but still unfinished house.



Thank you for your faithful support and prayers for these women of God. Pray for protection from COVID-19, and for strength, wisdom, and guidance as they balance family, ministry, their studies, and the stresses of life.

And a personal thank you from Pastor Beth Kamathi: “I praise and thank God that through the CBW I have an opportunity to be equipped. Special thanks to my sisters in the CBW who have sacrificed their comforts and have raised these funds for my scholarship. Without your sacrifice, I may not have made it to Acadia. You may never have a chance to minister in Africa or Kenya, but using your contribution, you are already serving a local church and a Bible college through me. Kindly continue praying for me and my studies. I look forward to the day when I will come to Canada and meet you in person and share my story. Continue praying for our denomination and nation as we navigate through the pandemic.”



Fran with an Angolan friend who was a fruit merchant.

## *In All Your Ways Acknowledge Him: Fran Harvey, Missionary Nurse*

by Pauline Harvey

“Please bring me a Primus beer bottle,” Fran would request when she was about to teach people in the Congo about battling dehydration. Fran Harvey was a missionary nurse who often taught both men and women in villages that were off the beaten path. Often, when out in the bush with her husband Charles, she was the only health professional for miles around, so she had to teach childcare with what was available to the average villager. An empty Primus beer bottle would hold four cups of boiled water and was the only standard measurement in small villages. Fran would teach the parents and grandparents how to add salt and sugar to the boiled water in the beer bottle to make a makeshift drink necessary to replace fluids a child had lost through vomiting or diarrhea. The next time she travelled through the village, she would hear how children’s lives had been saved through her public health teachings. This is just one example of the adaptability required throughout her 40 years of service as a wife, mother, and nurse on the mission field.

Fran started her faith journey in Poughkeepsie, New York, in Sunday school. Her first job was as a babysitter where she learned a deep love of the care of children. She continued into high school and worked in

a local doctor’s house and office. That introduction to medicine was enough to solidify her

determination to become a children’s nurse. She, along with one other, was accepted into a nursing program at Boston Children’s Hospital right out of high school. The Lord had already laid on her heart that she was to be a missionary nurse in Africa, and she continued to work towards that goal with all her body, soul, and spirit.

While pursuing her nursing training in Boston, she met a young man from the Maritimes who was at Boston’s Gordon College. She was amazed at the providence of God when she found out that Charles H. Harvey also was called to be a missionary in Africa. They were engaged and would eventually become two of the team of 11 sent with the Canadian Baptist Foreign Mission Board to minister in Angola, Africa, in 1957. Their life as mission staff with what is now known as Canadian Baptist Ministries would span 40 years, serving in Portugal, Angola, and the Democratic Republic of the Congo.

Fran’s life has been a testament to her life verses which are Proverbs 3:5–6. Trusting the Lord with all her heart was tested early on while doing language study in Portugal in 1958. Tim, her first child, was born in February. Because of her training she recognized a hernia on her infant son, requiring immediate surgery. God had

already provided a pediatric surgeon, an American who was also in language study. The surgery was performed successfully in the hospital in Lisbon. Fran says that in her years overseas she never again ran into a pediatric surgeon. God had made straight the pathway and her trusting mother's heart was put to rest. This pattern of trusting God with all your heart and allowing him to make the path straight has been proven time and time again.

Fran and Charles were stationed at Mboca, Angola, at an isolated section of rainforest when they arrived in Africa for the first time. Her second child Betty was born there with the help of a midwife. Life in the bush was a challenge for a young city girl like Fran. She dealt with the myriad of tropical insects, including army ants; the family had to move out of their house until the ants had moved through on their way. This happened while she was caring for an infant and a 2-year-old toddler, and, still, she found time to run a medical clinic.

This clinic was an important influence on the two 14-year-olds who arrived to help Fran translate for the patients who spoke dialects unfamiliar to her. She was able to give these teens some simple medical

training. Her two protégés went on with their training while refugees in other countries and eventually became medical doctors. This was an amazing result, given the lack of training available in Angola and the long wars that made life exceedingly difficult for young people at that time. God made a way where there was none for these two young men.



Charles and Fran Harvey in Luanda, Angola, 1962, with Tim, Betty, and Pauline.

When Angola's civil war became a clear and present danger to the mission team at Mboca, they were redeployed along with six other missionaries to the capital city of Cabinda. That was complicated by the fact that Fran was far along in her pregnancy with Pauline, her third child. Fran tells of a time when she was ordered out of a jeep to get under it for cover from gunfire—hard to do when nine months pregnant. Again, God made a

way, and the baby was born safely at a small hospital in Cabinda with the help of a midwife.

Two years later, the situation again became too dangerous, and Fran had to leave Charles and take their children to safety in Zaire (now the Democratic Republic of the Congo) where she waited four months for her husband to join her. They then travelled to New Brunswick, where they made the Fredericton news when they arrived safely at the airport. Later, the family returned to Africa and settled along with the Angolan refugees in the Bas Congo.

Fran's pediatric training was a blessing to the older three and their final child Miriam, who was born in the Congo. There are many stories of serious medical problems that Fran was able to overcome by the grace of God and the prayer support of God's people.

While the children were smaller, Fran was able to work at a clinic in a regional hospital. She was an important support to many younger missionaries who looked to her for advice. Later, when the kids were away at boarding school, she was able to join with Charles as he went to the small village groups in the bush. There, she did public health training (as was mentioned earlier) and taught classes to both men and women.

Fran has proven the faithfulness of God through rebellions, wars, sickness, death, and several epidemics, including the current one. She continues to be a support to friends and family in her retirement and would be the first to say, ***“Trust in the LORD with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding; in all your ways acknowledge him, and he will make your paths straight”*** (Proverbs 3:5–6, NIV, 1984).



Charles and Fran Harvey with their children (2006).



## *thinking outside the box: ministry beyond the pulpit*

by Catherine Cole

What do you want to be when you grow up?

From before I can remember, I was told I could be anything I wanted to be. I was encouraged to chase my dreams, think big—reach for the stars! As with most people, my answer to this age-old question evolved as I did: a teacher! A singer! An author, a bakery owner—even an Air Force pilot (just like my grandfather).

In my senior year of high school, the answer changed again to kinesiology and sports medicine. In my final year of undergrad, another change: I applied to the RCMP, confident that I had finally figured out what I was going to do with my life. That is ... until an ankle injury dictated otherwise.

I was back where I started, frustrated, disappointed, and lost, questioning my direction and feeling like I had to start from scratch, again. I had no idea what my purpose in life was going to be, but I desperately wanted to make a difference.

Ministry never crossed my mind. Not once.

### ***Not a Last Resort***

For many of us, the call to ministry only appears to come after every other door we try has closed.

Ministry was never my plan. “Ministry” meant being a full-time pastor—something that never resonated with me. And no matter how many times mentors, pastors,

and leaders in my life told me enthusiastically, “You have a call to ministry!” as I served in my local church and wider denomination, I stubbornly ignored them.

I didn’t understand that ministry comes in all shapes and forms—and sometimes those shapes and forms are very unexpected.

### ***A New Understanding***

So, what did I choose to be when I grew up? (Not that I’m done growing, by any means!) To be honest, I didn’t consciously “choose” anything. A temporary position turned into a two-and-a-half-year journey that has opened doors I didn’t even know existed.

I currently serve as the manager of recruitment and admissions, and the manager of communications for Acadia Divinity College, in Wolfville, Nova Scotia, and it took me quite a bit of time to realize that, even in this role, as unlikely as it sounds, I am serving in a ministry capacity. I journey with applicants as they discern God’s unique call to ministry; I build relationships with students who are preparing themselves to become pastors or chaplains or counsellors or something completely



**I didn’t understand that ministry comes in all shapes and forms—and sometimes those shapes and forms are very unexpected.**

different. I communicate the mission of the college as we seek to equip people to serve the Church.

I may not be preaching from a pulpit on Sunday, but I'm using the gifts and abilities that God has given me to further his kingdom.

I think that counts as ministry.

Throughout my journey, I've been reminded of Romans 12:4-8: *For just as each of us has one body with many members, so in Christ we form one body. We have different gifts, according to the grace given to each of us. If your gift is prophesying, then prophesy in accordance with your faith; if it is serving, then serve; if it is teaching, then teach; if it is to encourage, then give encouragement; if it is giving, then give generously; if it is to lead, do it diligently; if it is to show mercy, do it cheerfully (my paraphrase).*

### ***Equipped to Serve***

As I settled into my new role and worked through my expanding understanding of ministry, I sought out conversations with several leaders to discuss it further. These conversations led me to the conclusion that whether it is ministry as profession or profession as ministry, we are all serving in ministry together. And no matter how we serve, we could all be taking steps to equip ourselves to serve to the best of our ability.

In certain occupations, this might take the form of professional development conferences or seminars. As followers of Jesus, it means also equipping ourselves theologically. Just because we aren't in a "traditional" ministry role doesn't mean we don't have the responsibility to represent Christ well, wherever he has placed us.

### ***A New Chapter***

Since joining the team at ADC in 2017, I have not only been serving



the students who study with us, I also took the opportunity to study alongside them. From a professional perspective, this has given me personal insight into the experience of studying at ADC, which is important to my work in recruitment. From a personal perspective, however, the impact on my ever-evolving faith journey has been significant.

Through classes like "Christian Spiritual Formation," and, "Evangelism and Mission in Contemporary Society," I've learned how to think differently about what it means to be a follower of Christ in an increasingly post-Christian society. By taking a Bible survey course, I've delved deeper into God's Word. But more than just delving deeper, I'm learning how to effectively communicate the gospel in a world that deems it culturally irrelevant. These are all skills that equip me to serve inside and outside the walls of the church. And I'm just getting started!

This holistic theological training has given me knowledge and confidence to dialogue openly with friends who are not believers. And, it has widened my understanding of my personal role within the mission of God.

The truth is, we are all called to ministry. It can (and does!) look different for each of us, but we must be open to thinking outside the box and be prepared for however God is calling us to serve.

Ministry is not a last resort. It's not just for full-time pastors, and it doesn't just happen from the pulpit. Ministry is learning. Ministry is equipping. Ministry is wherever you are.

Are you ready?

*Catherine Cole  
Manager of Recruitment and Admissions  
Manager of Communications  
Acadia Divinity College  
Wolfville, Nova Scotia*



**ACADIA**  
DIVINITY COLLEGE  
*Equipping Christians to Serve*

## The Great Adventure



by Dan Grove

*Dan and Melody Grove lived and worked in Cameroon for twenty years, helping to translate the Bible into local languages.*

*Not long after arriving in Africa in the early 1990s, Dan and Melody travelled with their three young children to a remote area in Northern Cameroon to visit a possible mission location. The journey went so smoothly that their colleagues were amazed. As part one ends (see the April 2021 Tidings, page 12), the Groves are ready to return to their mission base.*

### And then

... our adventure really started. At 7 a.m., we headed to the Maroua airport for the two-hour trip back to

Yaoundé, only to discover that the plane was not at the airport. There was, however, a line of bush taxis (minivans into which 13 passengers are often crammed) sitting outside. The taxis were there for all of us to enjoy the three-hour trip south to the next major city, Garoua, where we waited again in the airport.

After some time, someone came and told us the plane would be a couple of hours late which started a pattern that continued throughout the rest of the day. Around 10 p.m., we were told the plane was actually broken so we would be taken to a hotel for the night and be picked up at 8 the next morning. After our neighbours at the hotel ended their music concert, we finally fell asleep, then were up and ready in the lobby for the trip back to the airport at 8 a.m. sharp. The van showed up at 8:30 and we got in and sat until we were told the plane was delayed again. Back into the hotel. At 9:30 we got back in the van and headed to the airport.

We were on the way! ... except that the plane was delayed. We could buy a bun with mayo and Spam from a lady at the airport, and after further delays a plane finally arrived at 3 p.m. This was when the mob of people—whose numbers had been growing since our start in Maroua the morning before and who recognized there was not room for all of us—rushed the tarmac to all try and get on the plane.

Melody got near the front with our little daughter and got squished in the crowd which actually helped propel her up the stairs. I was still stuck at the bottom with our two boys (then 5 and 7). The noise and bedlam was incredible. Finally, some brawny men saw our predicament and created a “tunnel” with their arms to help me and the boys get to and then up the stairs. By this time, the plane was almost completely full and we ended up sitting all over the place, separated from each other. The stewardess tried to seat a teenager in the seat in front of me which was already occupied by a woman; they were supposed to share. After a lot of noise, arguing, and even some pushing and shoving, the staff got enough people back off the airplane so they could close the doors.

Whew! As I wondered about the weight limitations and distribution of passengers, the plane climbed into the sky and the sense of relief was wonderful ... until I realized we were flying north instead of south. We ended up flying to a border town in Chad.

Rats! We had no visas to go to Chad so we sat in the plane on the tarmac in the hot sun until they finally headed in the right direction.

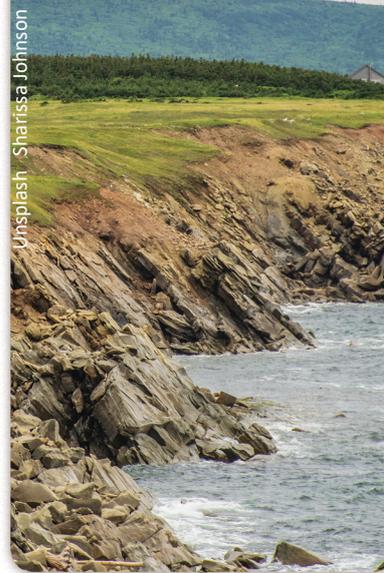
We landed in Yaoundé that evening and found a taxi that could take us back to the mission centre and arrived some 34 hours “late.” No one from the mission had any idea where we were during our journey or when (or if!) we would arrive.

And yet we knew, beyond the shadow of a doubt, that God was watching over us and our children every second of our long journey “home.” He had prompted the guest house manager where we stayed in Northern Cameroon to give us

some extra cash “just in case.” He had provided a place to sleep; some food and water along the way; friendly Cameroonians to help us board the plane; caring men and women who tried to comfort our sons when they were sitting far from us in the plane; and, he provided a taxi, which may have actually been the nicest we would ever see in our 20 years in Africa, to take us from the airport back to the mission centre at the end of a long journey as a little bonus “surprise” to remind us he was there.

**“God is our refuge and strength, always ready to help in times of trouble. So we will not fear when earthquakes come and the mountains crumble into the sea.”**

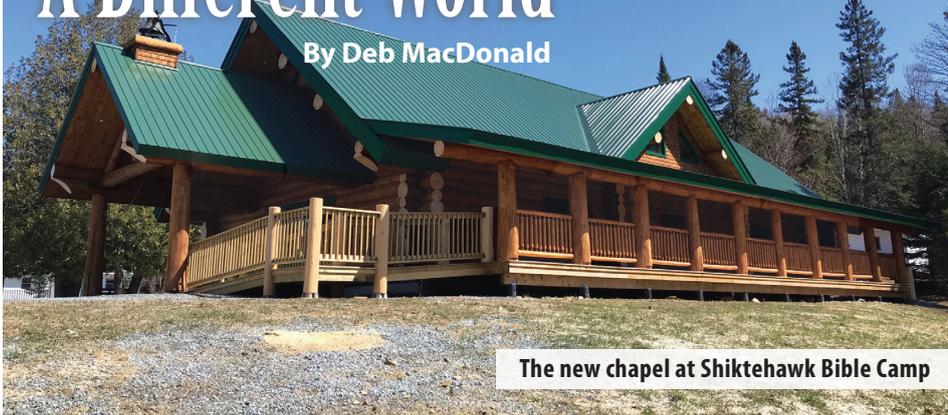
*Psalm 46:1–2, NLT*



It was another story of his grace. “God is our refuge and strength, always ready to help in times of trouble. So we will not fear when earthquakes come and the mountains crumble into the sea” (Psalm 46:1–2, NLT).

# A Different World

By Deb MacDonald



The new chapel at Shiktehawk Bible Camp

Nestled in a forest alongside a rushing stream lies a hidden treasure: Shiktehawk Bible Camp. Since its humble beginnings 86 years ago, this camp continues to be a place of pristine beauty and wonder.

Located just outside Bristol, New Brunswick, Shiktehawk Bible Camp is a unique place to experience nature, retreat from regular life, and meet God. Outdoor activities like a zip line, climbing wall, swimming pool, canoeing, kayaking, water toys in the “Crik,” and other features such as games, crafts, outdoor cooking, friends, great food, “tuck,” and campfires provide children with a jam-packed week filled with excitement. Last but not least, campers are introduced to and “grow in the grace and knowledge of our LORD and Savior Jesus Christ” (2 Peter 3:18a, NIV).

In 1935, a young pastor from Meductic, Lic. Manter Wilson, sought the Lord regarding the youth of his church and districts. God answered and gave him an idea which he presented in June during the spring Baptist Association meetings: a place where young people could hear about Jesus and be trained in Christian leadership. The districts accepted the challenge that he presented, and a committee was formed to find a suitable location for the camp. The right spot was across the bridge over a rushing stream,

and Camp Chickadeehawk was born. In July of that same year, 52 young people gathered for the first camp session. Such was the power of one young man’s dream and God’s people working together to make it happen!

Until 1958, the camp was known as Camp Chickadeehawk. It was in that year that a decision was made to change the name to correspond to the Indigenous name for the stream, Shiktehawk. Legend has it that it was along the banks of the stream that a chief won a great battle, and people assigned the name Shiktehawk, or *Where he conquered*, to the stream. Over the years, this name continues to ring true as Shiktehawk Bible Camp is where many surrender their lives to Jesus Christ, the conqueror over sin and death, alongside that same stream.

It has been echoed many times over the years that once you drive across the old wooden bridge into the camp property that it is like entering a different world. And it is. It’s a world to which campers return, year after year, with many later becoming summer staff or volunteers; a place where lives are renewed and changed by Christ; a place where young people are trained in Christian leadership and a positive work ethic.

Over the years, many directors have served at the camp, in addition to the countless staff, volunteers, and local churches that have faithfully

supported this important work. The current executive director is Jonathan MacDonald. Jon had previously been the director of Camp Tulakadik, in southern N.B., for four years, and after a short time of working as a carpenter, the Lord called him back to camp ministry at Shiktehawk in 2012.

As you can imagine, over 86 years countless building and renovation projects have been undertaken to improve and expand camp facilities through the generous donations of countless individuals, churches, and organizations. Atlantic Baptist Women has also helped to provide funding for mission education and supported the work at camp. Shiktehawk Bible Camp would not be able to function without faithful supporters who pray and give to this ministry.

In April 2021, a majestic 2,700-square-foot log chapel overlooking the stream was completed, made possible by a generous donation from a local couple. We are looking forward to worshipping God together in this new chapel.

2020 was a difficult year for many ministries across Canada, and many camps were not able to open their doors. Shiktehawk was able to adjust and operated at 50 per cent capacity, with 244 overnight campers, 72 day campers, and 50 wilderness campers. Churches and organizations sponsored 40 campers which was so appreciated by the families. Even though special guidelines and restrictions had to be followed, the 33 dedicated staff and volunteers made summer camp a great place to be for the children—a different world, filled with peace, joy, and the love of God.

It is by the grace of God and the prayers and financial support of God’s people that Shiktehawk Bible Camp continues to grow and flourish. We ask for your prayers that this ministry would continue to thrive and remain until Jesus comes again.



by Ruth Anna Dana

This past year has been a period of expansion for the Canadian Baptist Ministries team in Germany as the online church united Chinese believers in four cities. The pandemic created a special longing for community in students living alone in dorm rooms, who were dealing with general confusion and trying to maintain mental health.

When she was a Chinese student abroad, Xiaodan Gang first heard the message of salvation. She later sensed God’s call to ministry, and completed theological studies in 2007 and an internship with the Chinese church in Hamburg. In 2011, she committed herself to join the

Canadian Baptist Ministries team. Coming from a similar background as the students she ministers to, Xiaodan has a heart to build relationships with

youth to share Jesus with them. Through discipleship, her desire is to answer their spiritual questions: “... sanctify Christ as Lord in your hearts, always *being* ready to make a defense to everyone who asks you to give an account for the hope that is in you,

but with gentleness and respect” (1 Peter 3:15, NAS).

As a CBM global field staff member, Xiaodan has been reaching out to Chinese students since 2016. The city where she ministers has a population of which a third are students. Ministry in weekly services changed format with the lockdown, and the online Chinese church began. Then, as some of the governmental regulations lessened, some outdoor activities were allowed and very small student groups met in the residences. The Bible study conversations became most profound and honest in a growing atmosphere of caring for each other.

In September of 2020, Xiaodan announced the happy news of her engagement to her German friend, Philipp Froehlich. Their wedding plans were then made for December but the ceremony was delayed several times due to the restrictions of the pandemic. The celebration took place on April 10, 2021.

While waiting, Xiaodan and Philipp served the Lord together, complementing one another’s gifting. Many opportunities were used throughout the course of the year to build relationships with the students:



celebrating the September Moon Festival by sharing moon cakes, delivering Christmas cookies, and distributing Christian calendars at the Chinese New Year. Philipp launched an online German reading course of *The Purpose Driven Life* to help the students improve their German speaking skills.

Xiaodan and Philipp share a testimony of the seed of the gospel which was planted and the slow germination process in one young man’s life. “In January of 2020 a student partook in our Chinese New Year’s celebration. One year later he contacted us. He wanted to join our Bible study group. When he joined the group, he told us that he had only slept four hours in the last four days. He pondered the meaning of life, was very confused and troubled. He remembered the church he had visited some time ago. He wanted to get answers from the Bible to the questions he has about life.”

Xiaodan and Philipp ask for prayer:

- ◆ Pray for the students as more and more are struggling with sleep deprivation and mental problems. They need God’s hope and peace of mind.
- ◆ Pray that God may use the few opportunities Xiaodan and Philipp have to reach out to bring students to salvation.
- ◆ Pray for Xiaodan and Philipp to have the wisdom, strength, and love they need to be a guiding light for the students.
- ◆ May the Lord bless them in their new relationship as husband and wife.



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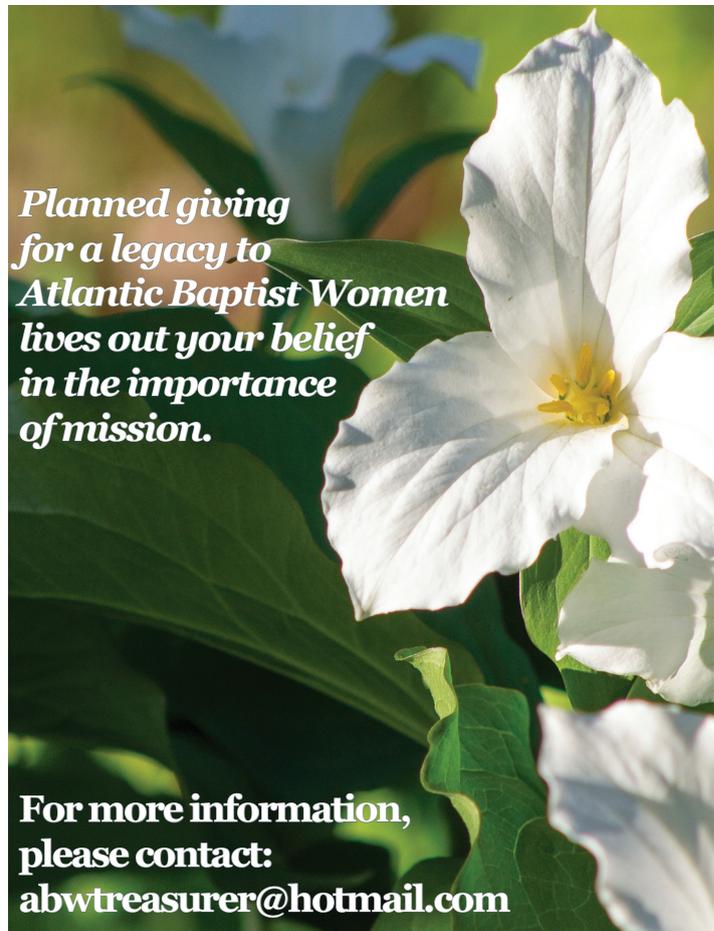
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CANADIAN BAPTISTS  
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*Canadian Baptist Ministries has appointed Joseph Lee to serve as national staff in the Golden Triangle region of Southeast Asia.* He will serve alongside CBM's Chinese Ministries team, supporting ministry opportunities within the region, and assisting in short- and long-term ministry planning and budgeting. He will also strengthen existing relationships and help to create new connections with Canadian churches. Joseph is married to CBM National Staff Lilian Yang. A pastor and teacher, Joseph has also served as the director of a mission fellowship in Thailand, and is currently pursuing a PhD in missiology.



**Joseph Lee**

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